

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1142

S E C R E T BEIRUT 6285

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED Q'S AND A'S RE MY DEPARTURE ON TUESDAY

REF: (A) STATE 174474, (B) BEIRUT 6250

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION RE MY DEPARTURE FROM BEIRUT NEXT TUESDAY. PARAS FOUR TO SEVEN ARE BASED ON PREMISE, WHICH DEPT WILL WISH TO REVIEW, THAT I MIGHT VISIT MARONITE SECTOR FROM CYPRUS AT LATER DATE.

2. Q: DID SEELYE LEAVE WITH THE AMERICANS WHO DEPARTED BEIRUT JULY 20?

3. A: YES, HE DID. THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE BEIRUT AFTER HAVING BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF LEBANESE LEADERS OVER A PERIOD OF TWO AND A HALF WEEKS. SEELYE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF HIS TALKS AND TO GIVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION.

4. Q: DID SEELYE VISIT THE CHRISTIAN SECTOR DURING HIS STAY IN LEBANON?

5. A: BECAUSE OF HEAVY FIGHTING IT WAS DEEMED UNWISE FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT FOR SEELYE TO CROSS THE LINES SEPARATING THE TWO AREAS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS VISITING MARONITE CHRISTIAN LEADERS AT A LATER DATE.

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6. Q: HOW WILL HE GET THERE?

7. A: IT IS POSSIBLE TO REACH JOUNIE VIA CYPRUS, BUT NOTHING HAS
YET BEEN DECIDED. IT IS LIKELY IN ANY CASE THAT SEELYE WILL RETURN
TO THE U.S. FIRST.
SEELYE

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